

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20

USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 NIC-01 EA-11 DRC-01 /235 W

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R 141655Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3965

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL DOUALA BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 2671

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, EGEN, ELAB, EK, NI

SUBJ: EQUATORIAL GUINEA GENERAL SITUATION

REFS: A. YAOUNDE 1783

B. DOUALA A-9, JULY 30, 1974

C. DOUALA A-10, JULY 30, 1974

1. SUMMARY: YAOUNDE DCM FRIEDMAN AND DOUALA CONSUL MITHOEFER VISITED MALABO AUGUST 8-10 AND FOUND GENERAL POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SITUATION SIMILAR TO THAT DURING DCM'S VISIT MAY 23-25 (REFTEL A). PARTY (PUNT) CONGRESS BEING HELD. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT JUNE 10/11 COUP PLOT WAS REAL AND NOT GOEG INVENTION TO COVER KILLING PRISONERS. NEW UNDP RESREP BELIEVES THAT WITH SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT WHICH HE IS MAKING ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR UNDP TO BE HELPFUL
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IN RESTORING COCOA PRODUCTION. PROBLEMS OF NIGERIAN LABORERS

CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

2. POLITICAL: CURRENT NEWS DURING VISIT WAS CONVOCATION EXTRA-ORDINARY NATIONAL CONGRESS PARTIDO UNICO NACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES (PUNT) AT BATA, WHICH BEGAN WITH OPEN SESSION FOR PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AUGUST 3 AND RAN THROUGH FOLLOWING WEEK. NO PRINTED TEXT AVAILABLE, THOUGH ALL WHO ATTENDED AGREED PRESIDENT MADE FOLLOWING THREE MAIN POINTS: (A) THERE NO NEED IMPORT FOREIGN COMMODITIES SUCH AS BREAD, SOAP AND MILK (NONE OF WHICH AVAILABLE) AS AFRICANS HAD LIVED WITHOUT BEFORE ADVENT OF EUROPEANS. GUINEANS SHOULD WORK HARD IN ORDER THAT COUNTRY COULD EARN MORE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND PROSPERITY WOULD COME TO ALL; (B) THERE HAD BEEN AN ATTEMPT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT IN JUNE, BUT IT HAD FAILED AS ALL OTHER ATTEMPTS WOULD FAIL BECAUSE MACIAS' PRESENCE REQUIRED TO LEAD THE COUNTRY; (C) THERE WILL BE NO WAR WITH GABON SINCE BOTH SIDES WISH SETTLE BOUNDARY DISPUTE PEACEFULLY. CONGRESS CONTINUED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS WITH PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY EXHORTING PARTY FAITHFUL ON VIRTUES OF WORK ETHIC.

3. THE COUP: CONTRARY TO INFORMATION CONTAINED REF B, BOTH SPANISH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS FIRMLY CONVINCED ON BASIS INFORMATION THEY CONSIDERED SOLID THAT REAL COUP PLANNED WHICH NIPPED IN BUD BATA PRISON NIGHT JUNE 10/11. BIZARRE SCENARIO WAS FOR BATA PRISONERS, WITH OUTSIDE COMPLICITY, TO SEIZE GUARD'S WEAPONS, ESCAPE, CAPTURE POWER STATION, KILL GOVERNOR (PRES. MACIAS IN MALABO), TAKE RADIO STATION AND APPEAL TO SPANISH EMBASSIES YAOUNDE AND LIBREVILLE TO REQUEST GOS SEND INTERVENTION FORCE. ONE OF PLOTTERS INFORMED GOVERNMENT WHICH KNOCKED OFF TEN CONSPIRATORS AT ONCE, ANOTHER 70 KILLED SHORTLY THEREAFTER. THIRTY PUT ON TRIAL, OF WHOM 15 SUBSEQUENTLY KILLED. PLOT WAS ALLEGEDLY BY OPPOSITION FANGS IN ORIGIN, THOUGH NUMBER PROMINENT DETAINED BUBIS ALSO EXECUTED.

4. ECONOMIC: (A) STORIES RIFE THAT COCOA TREES BADLY HIT BY INSECT DAMAGE AND INSECTICIDE SHORTAGE. MUCH VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF BEANS ROTTING ON TREES. NO CROP ESTIMATES AVAILABLE. (B) FRENCH AMB REPORTED SOCIETE DES DRAGAGES HAS SIGNED DOLS. 5-6 MILLION CONTRACT TO FINISH OUTFITTING BATA HARBOR BASED ON IRREVOCABLE LETTER OF CREDIT, PROVIDING 20 PERCENT DOWN PAYMENT AND REGULAR CONFIDENTIAL

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PROGRESS PAYMENTS THEREAFTER. WELLS FARGO AND EUROPEAN BANKS INVOLVED. WORK TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH. GOEG HAD REFUSED VERY FAVORABLE GOF FINANCING TERMS AND PREFERRED PAY CASH. (C) SOME FROZEN FISH FROM RUSSIAN TRAWLERS SOLD THROUGH STATE-OWNED STORES, INTERMITTENTLY AVAILABLE. VERY LIMITED CONSUMER SUPPLIES IN STORES INCLUDED CLOTHING AND CANNED FISH AND MEAT. VISIT NATIVE MARKET REVEALED NO FRESH MEAT OR POULTRY PRODUCTS, BUT LIMITED SUPPLIES STOCK FISH AT HIGH PRICES AND FAIRLY GOOD VARIETY

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. ELECTRICITY AND WATER OPERATED THROUGH-
OUT DAY AND NIGHT. WITH AUGUST 10 COMMENCEMENT CAMEROON AIR-
LINES SERVICE, AIR SERVICE BETWEEN MALABO AND DOUALA NOW DOUBLED
TO FOUR ROUND TRIPS PER WEEK.

5. UNDP: NEW UNDP RESREP ZETTERBERG COMPLETING PRELIMINARY
ASSESSMENT (REF C). HE HAS ABOUT CONCLUDED THAT IF ANYTHING IS
TO WORK, UNDP WILL HAVE TO BEND USUAL POLICIES AND SEND TECH-
NICIANS WHO PREPARED PERFORM OPERATING DUTIES, PARTICULARLY
IN RESTORING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION (COCOA), RATHER THAN HAVING
JUST ADVISORS. ZETTERBERG TO SEE PRESIDENT NEXT WEEK AND EXPLAIN
APPROACH. IF HE FEELS HE HAS SUPPORT PRESIDENT MACIAS, THEN HE
PLANS SEPTEMBER EUROPEAN TRIP TO ASCERTAIN WHAT ASSETS SPECIAL-
IZED UN AGENCIES PREPARED TO PROVIDE FOR RESTORATION OF BASIC
ECONOMY.

6. NIGERIAN LABORERS: NIGERIAN CHARGE ODUMUSU DESCRIBED GAMUT
OF USUAL PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM GOEG FAILURE TO LIVE UP TO
LABOR AGREEMENT AND EMPHASIZED FMG DESIRE REPATRIATE THE 8,000
CONTRACT LABORERS AND ANY OF THE OTHER 10-15,000 NIGERIANS WHO
WISH TO RETURN HOME. ALTHOUGH REPATRIATION BY SHIP AT GOEG
EXPENSE STIPULATED IN AGREEMENT, NO SHIPS AVAILABLE AND GOEG
REFUSES CONTRIBUTE TO AIR FARE EVEN FOR MEDICAL EVACUEES.
EMBASSY STILL HOPING FOR NIGERIAN SHIP, WHICH FMG SOME TIME
AGO SAID IT WOULD SEND, BUT TO DATE NO NIGERIAN SHIPS AVAIL-
ABLE. (COMMENT: ONE SOURCE SPECULATED POSSIBLE SOLUTION COULD
RPT COULD BE USE OF NEW MERCHANT VESSEL THE CHINESE PROVIDED
EG IN DECEMBER 1973. THAT SHIP CURRENTLY IN OR ON WAY TO DAKAR
FOR INSPECTION NECESSARY TO ARRANGE INSURANCE WHICH NEEDED
BEFORE IT CAN VISIT FOREIGN PORTS.)

7. SEPTELS FOLLOW ON BORDER DISPUTE WITH GABON, COMMUNIST ACT-
IVITIES, AND POSSIBLE EXILE OPPOSITION MOVEMENT.

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MOORE

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